

10/567561

Atty. Dkt. No. 040447-0276

IAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 FEB 2006

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Kota IWAMOTO

Title: IMAGE SIMILARITY CALCULATION SYSTEM, IMAGE SEARCH  
SYSTEM, IMAGE SIMILARITY CALCULATION METHOD, AND  
IMAGE SIMILARITY CALCULATION PROGRAM

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: 02/08/2006

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

Document A1 is a U.S. counterpart of Document A8.

Document A2 is a U.S. counterpart of Document A5.

Document A3 is a U.S. counterpart of Document A10.

The relevance of Documents A7, A9 and A11 is described in the present application.

Document A4 relates to an image retrieval device and program capable of retrieving images reflecting a user's will.

Document A5 relates to a video content distribution system in television broadcast which generates image of region detected as character information of video content.

Document A12 relates to a picture recognizing method to prevent influence by a position deviation or noise occurring at the time of acquiring a sample pattern.

Documents A6, A8 and A10, listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding International application. A copy of the International Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner. An English translation of the foreign-language documents is not readily available; however, the absence of such a translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP§609).

Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 8, 2006

By Phillip J. Articola Reg. No. 28,819

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  Date Submitted: February 8, 2006  <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<b>Complete if Known</b> <b>Application Number</b> Unassigned <b>Filing Date</b> 02/08/2006 <b>First Named Inventor</b> Kota IWAMOTO <b>Group Art Unit</b> Unassigned <b>Examiner Name</b> Unassigned <b>Attorney Docket Number</b> 040447-0276	
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
	A1	2003/0156754	A1	OUCHI	08-21-2003	
	A2	2003/0110515	A1	SATODA	06-12-2003	
	A3	6,529,630	B1	KINJO	03-04-2005	

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Application Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Serial Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	A4	JP	2003-216649	A	NIPPON HOSO KYOKAI	07-31-2003		A
	A5	JP	2003-179888	A	NEC CORP.	06-27-2003		A
	A6	JP	2002-074265	A	MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP.	03-15-2002		A
	A7	JP	2001-134765	A	CANON INC.	05-18-2001		A
	A8	JP	2000-259847	A	RICOH KK	09-22-2000		A
	A9	JP	2000-163576	A	HITACHI LTD.	06-16-2000		A
	A10	JP	11-316845		FUJI PHOTO FILM CO.	11-16-1999		A
	A11	JP	11-312248		CANON INC.	11-09-1999		A
	A12	JP	09-251513		PURASUITSUKU:KK	09-22-1997		A

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>6</sup>	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

<sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.